UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
LIMITED

A/C.1/52/L.27
29 October 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Fifty-second session
FIRST COMMITTEE
Agenda item 71 (b)

GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT

Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, El Salvador, Finland, Germany, Guinea, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mali, Mozambique, Nepal, Netherlands, Norway, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America: draft resolution

Small arms

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 50/70 B of 12 December 1995,

Recalling also its resolution 51/45 L of 10 December 1996, in which it welcomed the initiative taken by Mali concerning the question of the illicit circulation of small arms and their collection in the affected States of the Saharo-Sahelian subregion,

Convinced of the need for a comprehensive approach to promote, at the global and regional levels, the control and reduction of small arms and light weapons in a balanced and non-discriminatory manner as a contribution to international peace and security,

Reaffirming the inherent right to individual or collective self-defence recognized in Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations, which implies that States also have the right to acquire arms with which to defend themselves,

Reaffirming also the urgent need for practical disarmament in the context of the conflicts the United Nations is dealing with at present and of the weapons that are actually killing people in their hundreds of thousands,

Welcoming the report on small arms prepared by the Panel of Governmental Experts on Small Arms,[1] which contains measures to reduce the excessive and destabilizing accumulation and transfer of small arms and light weapons in specific regions of the world and to prevent such accumulations and transfers from occurring in future,

Welcoming also the guidelines for international arms transfers in the context of General Assembly resolution 46/36 H of 6 December 1991, which were adopted by consensus by the Disarmament Commission in 1996[2] and taking note of its ongoing efforts to consider guidelines for post-conflict situations, including demobilization of former combatants, disposal and destruction of weapons, as well as confidence- and security-building measures,

1. Endorses the recommendations contained in the report on small arms,[1] which was approved unanimously by the Panel of Governmental Experts on Small Arms;

2. Calls upon all Member States to implement the relevant recommendations to the extent possible and where necessary in cooperation with appropriate international and regional organizations and/or through international and regional cooperation among police, intelligence, customs and border control services;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to implement the relevant recommendations, in particular to initiate a study on the problems of ammunition and explosives in all their aspects, as early as possible, within available financial resources and in cooperation with appropriate international and regional organizations where necessary;

4. Also requests the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member States on the report and information on the steps that they have taken to implement its recommendations, in particular, to seek their views on the recommendation concerning the convening of an international conference on the illicit arms trade in all its aspects, and to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session;

5. Further requests the Secretary-General to prepare a report, with the assistance of a group of governmental experts to be nominated by him in 1998 on the basis of equitable geographical representation, on the progress made in the implementation of the recommendations made in the report of the Panel of Governmental Experts in Small Arms and on further actions recommended to be taken, to be submitted to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session;

---

[1] A/52/298, annex.

[2] Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 42 (A/51/42), annex I.

6. Encourages Member States and the Secretary-General to implement the recommendations on post-conflict situations, including demobilization of former combatants and disposal and destruction of weapons;

7. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-third session the item entitled "Small arms".